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Present Remedy

FOR THE

POOR:

OR,

The most probable Means to provide well for the Poor of the Nation; to free us in time from paying the Poors Rates; and deliver us now from the publick Nusance of Beggars.

Humbly submitted to the Wisdom of the next Sessions of Parliament.

M.D.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

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Present Remedy

POOR:

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REMEDY
FOR THE
POOR.

HIS Majeſty's Wiſdom, Care, and Goodneſs in recommending this publick Grievance to the Sages of our Nation in the laſt Seſſions of Parliament, deſerves the univerſal Acknowledgment and Thanks of the whole Kingdom. No ſooner was his Mind at liberty from the perplexing Thoughts and heavy Burden of a tedious War, but he applied it to the ſtudy of promoting the Peace of his People, by adviſing the redreſs of a known Evil, in theſe words: *I think it would be happy if ſome effectual Expedient could be found for imploying the Poor, which might tend to the great Increaſe of our Manufactures, as well as remove a heavy Burden from the People.* By this and many other Inſtances we may clearly ſee our Happineſs in the injoyment of ſo excellent, valiant, wiſe, and publick-ſpirited a Prince, under whoſe Government and Conduct we may promiſe to our ſelves a laſting Quiet at home, and a flouriſhing Trade abroad: We may promiſe to our ſelves all the Bleſſings of a happy People, if we could be as unanimous and diligent in obſerving our Duties and Obligations, as he is vigilant and careful in minding us, and performing all that is required from him in that high Station of Honor and Truſt, where a divine and favourable Providence to us, our Religion and Nation, hath placed him. But I intend not here to inlarge upon

the deſerved Praiſes of our King, whom *Europe* and the whole World admires for his extraordinary Abilities both in Peace and War; and who with much more Reaſon and Juſtice might claim the glorious Sirname of GREAT, for having ſaved three Kingdoms from utter Ruin, than the Vanity of others hath aſſum'd it, for having deſtroy'd multitudes of Mankind. My buſineſs in theſe Lines is, to lay open to the wiſe Governours of our Nation this great Grievance of the Poor, which his Majeſty recommended to the Conſideration of the laſt Parliament, and which hitherto continues without Redreſs. A growing Grievance that is as diſgraceful to our wiſe and reformed Nation, as it is troubleſome to us all, tho we our ſelves are exempted from the ſmart of Poverty. I ſhall alſo venture to offer, with all ſubmiſſion to the Wiſdom of the Government, the moſt probable, or perhaps the only means likely to ſucceed to remedy this publick Nuſance, and what Advantages we may in time procure to our ſelves and Nation by taking the Method I propoſe.

I need not tell you that Nature, as well as Chriſtianity, calls upon us to commiſerate the Wants and Sufferings of our own kind; and we are taught by the Birds of the Air, to ſupply out of our Abundance the Neceſſities of our own Species. That Bird is moſt remarkable, mentioned by the Royal Prophet, *Pſal.* 104. 17. and named by him *Chaſidah*, the merciful Bird, becauſe it is an excellent Example among natural Beings, to recommend Charity and Liberality: For as it is reported, the young will not only fetch Food for the old, but bear them upon their Wings, when helpleſs. And of the Eagle it is ſaid, That it is ſo noble, as to call the reſt of the Birds round about to partake of that Plenty that Providence vouchſafes it. However, Reaſon can tell us that our wiſe Benefactor having created the World, and the Bleſſings of it, for the general uſe of Mankind; If his Providence appears partial in the diſtribution of its Gifts, 'tis not with a deſign that we ſhould ingroſs them to our ſelves, but learn to imitate our good God, by imparting them to others, who are in want. Stewards therefore we are, and not Proprietors of our Enjoyments; and the intent of our liberal Maker is, that we ſhould convey what we have received from his bountiful Hand, to ſuch Objects of Charity as we meet with in our mortal Race; and the more liberal our

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God is to us, the more free we ought to be to them. But the whole Body of our Religion, as it is the Product of pure Grace, and a divine Charity, calls upon us, and injoyns us with many Promiſes to incourage our Liberalities to the Poor and Needy, and frequently to extend our Charity anſwerable to the heavenly Bounty. Nay, all our expectations of Forgiveneſs of Sins, of the Mercies of our Redeemer, and of the future Rewards, depend in ſome meaſure upon our Favor and Bounty to the poor Members of Chriſt's myſtical Body, whoſe Indigency a wiſe Providence lays daily before our eyes, that we may by their Aſſiſtance and Relief lay up for our ſelves a good foundation for a future State, and make our ſelves Friends, that is, oblige God their Redeemer, and the holy Angels their Guardian-Spirits, to lend us alſo in requital their aſſiſting hand in times of want and danger. But I hope I need not inlarge upon this Exhortation to Charity. Our Nation has always been noted for Liberality to Foreigners in diſtreſs, and 'tis not probable it will be leſs bountiful to its own Natives. How many excellent Laws have been made for that purpoſe, for the continual Relief of the Indigent in every Precinct. I may ſay that the Charity of the Nation hath proceeded in theſe latter days to an exceſs; inſomuch that many Poor truſting to it, wholly neglect the other means appointed and required by God and Reaſon to recruit their Wants. It belongs therefore to Wiſdom, and our Chriſtian Prudence, to direct, as well as to incourage our Charity to the Poor, and pitch upon a right Method to relieve their Neceſſities; ſuch a Method as may be agreeable with the ſtate and condition of the Nation, and may incourage Trade, the chief Source of Plenty.

Poverty is a univerſal Cry and Complaint both in City and Country. Divers Families have bin brought into diſtreſs by the Evils and Miſchiefs of the Times, the Caſualties of War, and ſeveral other human Accidents. And like the miſerable Cripple of the Pool of *Bethesda*, Poverty is of it ſelf helpleſs, not able to move without the aſſiſtance of others. And tho it ſharpens Induſtry to contrive new Inventions, 'tis in ſuch Caſes as when it is not altogether deſpirited by the want of all Neceſſaries, but hath a convenient ſupply of means and life to ſtir and act. Herein Charity is the more oblig'd to diſcover it ſelf, becauſe it is to help ſuch as

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are both willing, and ſtrive to help themſelves out of the Calamity; and in this caſe all its Proceedings and Liberalities are crowned and rewarded with ſucceſs, and a double Bleſſing.

Indeed Poverty in it ſelf is an Evil of that magnitude, that we need no artificial Glaſs to increaſe and inlarge it to our Eye. It is attended by ſo many bad Circumſtances, that may eaſily move our Compaſſion, and oblige rational Beings to indeavour to remove it both from the publick Society, as well as from our ſelves. Were there nothing elſe but the Clamors and mournful Outcries of the Poor that daily fill our Ears, and the ſenſe of their urging Neceſſities, and of their Families; were there nothing but their Nakedneſs and Miſery, this would be ſufficient to render the publick Poverty grievous to us as well as to them. But it is a grand and chief Cauſe of many other Miſchiefs among us.

Firſt, it is the Cauſe of many Robberies, Houſe-breakings, Murders, and other Villanies, to which Poverty prompts Perſons who are in want, and by that means renders our living and dealings in City and Country the more unſafe. And I am perſwaded that a great many who are executed every Seſſions and Aſſizes, would never have committed ſuch Wickedneſs, if Poverty had not driven them to ſuch abominable Actions.

It is the Cauſe of Irreligion, and Ignorance of our Duty; for ſuch as are deſperately poor, ſeldom or never mind inſtruction, nor the ſtudy of Religion: they are brought up as Heathens, and the want of Neceſſaries takes up all their thoughts how to provide Bread; ſo that they have no time to think upon God or Eternity, nor the way that leads thither. It drives many to the neceſſity of begging. It incourages Idleneſs, and makes ſeveral whoſe ſtrength and abilities might render them uſeful Members of the Society, to be not only uſeleſs, but pernicious and miſchievous. I need not reckon the other many Evils that Poverty and Begging brings upon us. The number of Beggars increaſes daily, our Streets ſwarm with this kind of People, and their boldneſs and impudence is ſuch, that they often beat at our Doors, ſtop Perſons in the ways, and are ready to load us with Curſes and Imprecations, if their Deſires be not ſpeedily anſwer'd. Beſides, it is reported of the common Beggars, that they have their Meetings and Rendevouz, where what they have got by their lazy Trade, they can ſpend freely

freely in Debauchery, Drunkenneſs, and other Sins. By this means the Charity of good People is ſtrangely miſapplied, to the diſhonor of God, and the diſgrace of Religion among us; and theſe ordinary Beggars hinder us from regulating and diſpoſing of our Charity upon the right Objects.

For the remedying of this Evil and its woful Conſequences, it is needful to imploy our Poor according to the antient and known Laws of the Government, and not only to put in execution the old, but to make ſuch new as may ſtop the increaſe of this begging Trade. It is needful that our wiſe Governors would conſider how to diſpoſe of theſe poor People, and confine them to Work-houſes, where they may be furniſh'd with neceſſary Tools, and oblig'd to get their living in a lawful way. But the great difficulty is how to proceed in the diſpoſing of ſuch vaſt numbers of both Sexes and of all Ages, and how to raiſe a Fund to ſupply the wants of ſo many thouſands.

I anſwer, That there is every year a million of Mony collected in this Kingdom from all Pariſhes for the relief of their Poor; and if this were rightly applied to the imploying, inſtead of buying them preſent Neceſſaries, it would be ſufficient not only to provide them Tools and other things needful to keep them at work, but that, together with the Product and Advantage of their Work, would anſwer all their Neceſſities, and ſupply all their Wants. But the Difficulty is, how and in what manner to proceed. I am not ignorant, but know perfectly well what Methods are obſerv'd in *Holland* and *France*; where 'tis of late days that Beggars, unleſs they belong to Religious Houſes, are not ſuffer'd; and all Perſons never ſo mean are provided for, without the gathering of ſuch vaſt Rates as among us. If in laying down the beſt means, as I conceive, to provide for our Engliſh Poor, I vary from foreign Methods in ſome things, 'tis becauſe our Conſtitution and Government differs much from theirs, and the Evil is greater among us than it was among them, and therefore requires a Remedy anſwerable.

Firſt, as it is needful to imploy our Poor, and to ſet them to work, there is a neceſſity that they ſhould be confin'd to a certain Houſe where they may have all Conveniencies for Life and Imploiment. The Work-houſes that are already built, are not ſo convenient as may be contriv'd for ſuch a vaſt number of Poor

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as are among us. I offer therefore to give the Model of ſuch a Houſe as ſhall not be for State, nor to ſhew the Grandure of our Nation, but ſhall be for Uſe, and capacious enough to contain and imploy two thouſand Perſons in daily Labor. Let ſuch a Houſe be erected near the City of *London*, as a Model for all the reſt; I ſuppoſe that three ſuch Houſes will be ſufficient to contain all the Poor of this great City and *Weſtminſter*. And in imitation of the Metropolis, let all other Cities erect for themſelves ſuch convenient Workhouſes for all ſorts of Trades, and to imploy and improve the Growth of the Country: for without ſuch a Confinement, lazy People, uſed to begging, will not take any pains.

This Houſe muſt be under the Command of a Governour, Deputy-Governour, and other inferiour Officers, choſen in time from the poor People, who are to be kept in hopes of riſing to Honour and Authority in the Houſe, by their Induſtry, Diligence, and other good Behaviour.

The Governour and Deputy-Governour are to be choſen firſt by the Juſtices, and Magiſtrates of every County; and the other inferiour Officers by the Governour and Conſent of the Houſe.

Let the Pariſhes give in the number of the Poor who have conſtant relief, when the Houſes are built. Let them ſend them that are chargeable, with their whole Families to ſuch Houſes, being directed by the Juſtices, or Perſons appointed by Authority, what Pariſhes are to agree to put their Poor together; the numbers of ſuch Poor to be in every Houſe, upwards of a thouſand, and not exceeding two thouſand or thereabouts.

The Governour's Office ſhall be to buy Neceſſaries, to provide Wool, Flax, and other Commodities; to take charge of the People; to ſee that every one labors; to receive and take an account of their Work when done; to pay them their Wages; to be anſwerable for all things; to have Authority in his Houſe as a Juſtice of Peace, and to puniſh with the conſent of other Officers all Miſdemeanors, not injuring neither Life nor Limb.

Let there be in every ſuch Work-houſe a Chaplain, a Reader who is to be a School-maſter, a Phyſician who is to be a Doctor, Apothecary and Surgeon, a Butcher to buy and provide Food, a Brewer, Baker, and Cooks convenient: Some of which may be taken out of the poor People.

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The Houſe is to be built in ſuch a manner upon waſte Ground, or Common, or other convenient place, with neceſſary Gardens belonging to it, where all Trades are to be diſtinct, with the Spinning-rooms, Infirmary for Maim'd and Cripples, for Old and unable to work, and a Nurſery for Baſtards and Orphans; with a Chappel of an oval Figure, with Galleries, round Theatrewiſe; the Pulpit and Desk near the middle: the Model I offer to give, able to contain greater numbers than any of our Churches in a leſſer Compaſs: The Miniſters and School maſters Lodgings at one end, the Apothecaries at the other. By this means care will be taken both of their Souls and Bodies.

All the Poor to be lodg'd at the diſcretion of the Governour, to be provided at the publick Charge, with Clothes all of one color in every Houſe; Linen, Tools, Beds and Beddings, with other Conveniencies. And they are to fetch from the Governor or his Deputy, Wool, Flax, Hemp, Iron, Leather, *&c.* and when return'd, to be allowed as other Maſters give, or rather more. So that unleſs ſuch as are able to work employ themſelves, they are not to eat.

Laws are to be preſcrib'd to every Houſe, which they muſt religiouſly obſerve; ſuch Laws as are agreeable with our holy Religion, the Laws of the Land, and the good and peace of ſuch Societies. And ſuch as are not able to work, to be provided for; but what every one can do, he is to be directed by the Governours, and furniſh'd with Materials accordingly; for the Governor is to have an overſight over all the Offices of his Houſe, to adviſe, direct, incourage every one to do his Duty.

And for the better managing of a Trade, it is convenient, that four or more Merchants in *London* ſhould aſſociat to furniſh and take off ſuch Commodities and Manufactures as are there made, and in the Cuſtody of the Governors in their ſeveral Ware-houſes in the ſaid Great Houſe; and that theſe Merchants ſhould have their Correſpondents in ſeveral Parts of *England* to buy off ſuch Manufactures made, ſome for ready Mony, ſome upon truſt, as they can agree, and vent the ſame abroad, and have Returns.

The Governors are to keep an account of all ſuch Monies received and paid, and to whom; what Benefit is made of the Work, and to be anſwerable to the Juſtices at their Seſſions.

The Governors ſhall receive from each Pariſh, weekly or monthly, what each Pariſh was wont to pay to their ſeveral Poor for ſome years, until a ſtock of Mony can be raiſed; and to prevent Frauds, ſevere Penalties muſt be impoſed upon Offenders, and an account muſt be publiſh'd and printed yearly, that the Nation may ſee that there is no cozenage.

Let every Governor imploy ſome in making of Sails, Ropes, Nets, and other things for Shipping and Fiſhing; and when they have Youths able and willing for the Seas, let them out of the publick Stock buy one or more Boats, or convenient Buſſes or Veſſels at Sea, to belong to every Houſe; and that all the Fiſh taken ſhall be brought thither, if not too far from the Seas, and diſpos'd of at the Govenour's Diſcretion, allowing a Subſiſtence and Salary to their Agents. By this means the Shipping and Fiſhing Trade will be incouraged.

And if at any time poor Families have no Work, who belong not to theſe Houſes, there they ſhall be furniſh'd with Wool, Hemp, &c. and other Materials for them and their Families. So that theſe Houſes may imploy many more than are ſhut within the Walls.

If any are ſturdy, unruly, or refuſe to work, or run away, a courſe may be taken to remedy that and other accidents. A ſevere Law muſt be made to puniſh Officers of Pariſhes that neglect to carry them back, and others that offer to give them any relief; and ſuch Penalties and Fines are to be return'd and paid in to the Governors of ſuch Houſes, together with the Perſons of ſuch Runaways. No maintenance is to be allowed them, but within the Houſe, and that proportion'd to their deſervings. If they run away again, let them be whip'd publickly, and be carried back as often as they ſhall thus eſcape.

Now if any poor Families be not able to ſubſiſt by reaſon of Children, and their Parents cannot well be ſpar'd from the Neighbourhood, becauſe of their handy work, let the eldeſt of their Children be ſent to theſe Houſes; firſt taught to read, write, and cipher, and to be put to ſuch Trades and Maſters in theſe Houſes as may teach them their Craft and Skill. So that the Officers of every Pariſh ſhall not need to give any weekly allowance to ſuch poor Parents; and in a little time, when a conſiderable Fund may

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be rais'd by ſuch Trade and Working, no Poors-Rates will be any more gather'd in the Nation.

If any ſturdy Beggars be incorrigible, let the Governors, with the conſent of the Juſtices at the publick Seſſions, have Power to tranſport ſuch unruly Perſons beyond Sea, if they be young and fit for Travelling to our Weſtern Plantations, or to ſend them to ſeveter Houſes to a ſtraiter Confinement, there to be dealt with according to Law, till they ſhall reſolve to amend.

Let every ſuch Houſe have convenient Privileges granted to it to incourage the Poor to be induſtrious. Let their inferiour Officers be all annually choſen by themſelves, with the aſſiſtance of the Governor and his Deputy, who alone muſt be appointed by the Government.

Let the Commodities and Manufactures made in ſuch Houſes be freed from Cuſtoms, or pay not ſo much as others when exported out of the Land, for a limited time.

Let it be in the Power of the Governors of ſuch Houſes near Seaport-Towns, and other places, with the conſent of ſuch Perſons of their Societies, as will of their own accord, to plant in the Weſt-*Indies* and ſuch Plantations, to belong to the Governors and their Houſes, and to the Parties ſo ſent, as they ſhall agree. By which means they may vent a great many of their Manufactures made in their Work-houſes, and have Returns in Sugars, Tobacco, *&c.*

Let there be a Prebendary or two belong to each Houſe, or a Benefice or ſpiritual Living adjoining, for the incouragement of the Miniſter and School-maſter, and let that be to them inſtead of a Salary to maintain them. Let ſome other publick Incouragement or Income be appointed for the Phyſician to incourage him alſo.

Let every Child within the Houſe be firſt taught to read, write cipher, and other neceſſary Learning, with the Principles of true Religion, by the Miniſter and his Reader, or School-maſter: and let conſtant Catechiſing, and expounding upon the Catechiſm in a familiar way, be practis'd every holy day and Sunday in the afternoon; and Prayers twice a week on the working days, or oftner if it be convenient. And let all within the Houſe come or be brought to the Divine Service, at leaſt every Sabbath Day, if Sickneſs hinders not.

Let all within the House live in a loving and courteous manner, abstaining from Swearing, Cursing Scolding, or opprobrious Language, according to the Laws there to be observed. And let them buy their Necessaries of one another, that their Mony may there circulate within themselves, and incourage their Industry and Labor.

And for a greater incouragement to such charitable Houses, let the Governor or his Deputy, and other Officers, with the Approbation of the Justices of the County, have Power to buy Lands, Tenements, and other Rents, which may belong to such Houses for ever, and to receive the benefit of any Gifts or Legacies, &c. which religious Persons shall bestow upon them for the Repair of their Houses, and the greater incouragement of the Poor.

Now for the maintenance of such Governors and Deputy-Governors, without taking any thing from the publick Monies, I offer to lay down an easy and practicable Method, which I doubt not but will be approv'd of. And besides, when the Trade shall grow considerable in these Houses, let them have but the ordinary Fees of Factors and Agents beyond Sea, or at home, that will greatly increase their first Incomes, and cause them to live with Splendor and Plenty, without diminishing any thing from the Poors Mony, or the Publick Stock.

And for the intire Suppression of the begging Trade, let it be lawful for all poor Prisoners, who have nothing to subsist upon but Charity, to turn themselves over to these Work-houses to get their living; and what they can spare out of their Work, let it be imployed to pay their Creditors, as the Wisdom of the Nation shall think fit.

But how shall such Houses be erected, and who shall pay for the same?

I answer, Several easy and practicable Means may be proposed, for the raising sufficient Sums of Mony for the speedy building of Houses.

First let a Collection be made by way of a Brief in every County for the benefit of that County; and the Monies so collected be return'd into the hands of the Sheriff, or his Deputy, to pay off the Workmen and buy Materials.

Let all Commutations for Whoredom and Bastardy, be likewise converted to this publick Use, and the Mony to remain in the

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hands of the Chancellor or Official for this purpoſe, to be commanded from thence by the order of the Government. And let a ſtrict Inquiry be made, and all Perſons guilty be oblig'd either to fine or do penance. Truly this Mony can never be better imployed; for I have ſeen in the diſpenſing Deeds of the Eccleſiaſtical Courts, that it is to be imployed, *Ad uſum Pauperum, & alios pios uſus*: To the uſe of the Poor, and other religious Uſes.

Let all Prebendaries and Dignities of the Church, which ſhall be hereafter beſtowed, pay a year or two years Rent, or a certain Proportion, to be charg'd at the Diſcretion of our Parliament, and let this continue until ſuch time as theſe Houſes ſo erected be paid for. And let all Benefices above 100 *l. per annum* pay the Overplus into the Biſhops hands, or his Receiver, for two years after Induction. And let the Clerk oblige himſelf by Bond, or be forc'd by Law to pay the ſame, and let him be inſtituted and inducted upon that condition.

Let all ſuch as now injoy great Benefices, multiplicity of Prebendaries and other Pluralities, be charg'd to this pious Work as the Wiſdom of our Parliament ſhall think fit. But all Deans, Canons, Prebendaries, and Sine Cures, ought in reaſon to contribute: For theſe Eſtates were firſt granted by the religious Donors, *ad perpetuam Eleemoſynam*; not only for the incouragement of Learning, for the maintenance of the Service of God, for a more ſplendid Government of the Church, but for the Benefit and Comfort of the Poor in every County, where they had no Laws then to gather Taxes for their relief.

Let alſo ſome certain Fines to be impos'd by the Government, at the Aſſizes and Seſſions, and in Courts of Judicature, upon Offenders, be appropriated to the Building of theſe convenient Houſes in the ſeveral Counties where the Offences were committed.

And for a more effectual carrying on of this good Work, let four or more Perſons be appointed as publick Commiſſioners, to puſh it on and bring it to perfection. Let them divide the Nation between them, and viſit every County, and there adviſe with the Juſtices for convenient places to erect ſuch Work-houſe for the Poor. Let them be authoris'd by the Government to take waſte Ground, to agree with the Proprietors and Workmen, and to appoint, with the conſent of the Juſtices, Governors and

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Deputy-Governors, to overſee the Workmen, and haſten the Building, according to the firſt Pattern to be erected near the City of *London*. And let them make ſuch Regulations as ſhall be convenient. And let them order a ſtock of Hemp, and other Commodities and Monies to be deliver'd and paid to the Governors of the Poor out of the Monies collected in each County. And for their incouragement, let ſuch Perſons have ſome publick Office of Profit or Advantage beſtowed upon them to incourage them, and defray their Charges, that what they do may be *gratis* in relation to the Poor, or their Stock, and nothing may be diminiſh'd out of it, but wholly ſpent for the relief and imployment of ſuch poor Perſons whoſe whole Families, may be admitted, and all put to work according to their ſeveral Abilities and Ages.

Some other eaſy Methods may be contrived to raiſe Mony for the building of theſe Houſes, which may not in any wiſe burden the Commonalty of the Nation; For inſtance, let all great Offices in Law, and other profitable imploys in Church and State, be charg'd with the payment of ſome Proportion of ſuch large Revenues for this publick Good. I doubt not but thoſe worthy Gentlemen whom God hath bleſs'd with plentiful Eſtates either in Church, Law, or Government, will not grudg to allow ſomething out of their abundance to this pious Work, for the eaſement of their Neighbours and themſelves.

If theſe Propoſals may be accepted, and the Methods here laid down be found agreeing with the Wiſdom of our Governors, as it is both rational, juſt, and feaſible; I doubt not but to ſhew another Expedient for the raiſing of a conſiderable Sum of Mony, with the general Applauſe of the whole Nation, if any of theſe former Methods diſpleaſe the Humor or Stingineſs of ſuch as are deſired to contribute; or if the Fund ſo rais'd be not ſufficient to compleat this great Work; that is, to erect the Work-houſes, and buy in to them a ſufficient Stock of the Growth of the Country, as may imploy all the idle and lazy Poor of the Nation. Let here be an inquiry made into two or three grand Abuſes in the Nation, and ſuch as are found guilty, be depriv'd of their unjuſt gain, that is, what they for ſome years have uſurp'd and enjoyed contrary to the known Laws of the Land, and be oblig'd to quit and to refund for two or three years back what they have thus

taken:

taken: I dare be bold to promiſe a conſiderable Sum either into the King's Exchequer, or for the carrying on this Work.

And for the City of *London*, for which I have always had a particular Affection, having receiv'd there my firſt Education; as the Poor in the adjacent parts thereabouts are more numerous than in any other part, and the number of Beggars, and the Evil greater, ſo larger Sums of Mony are required for the erecting theſe neceſſary Work-houſes. I ſuppoſe no leſs than three may be required in and about this large City, for the containing of all the poor Families. One in the City and Liberties, another about *Spittle-fields*, or towards *Wapping*, and another for *Weſtminſter* and that part. I offer to the worthy and honourable Governors of this noble City, if they ſhall pleaſe to liſten to my Propoſals, to ſhew them an eaſy Method to raiſe Mony for the time to come, without burdening their Neighbours, ſufficient for the building and preparing all theſe Workhouſes, and to give my pains freely in the management and carrying on of this Work, without expectation of any other Reward but the Honor and great ſatisfaction of ſeeing it brought to perfection.

I underſtand that the religious Governors of this City, impower'd by Law, have taken Methods already to imploy their Poor, have raiſed Mony, hired large Houſes in *Biſhopſgate ſtreet*, and are preparing them for their Reception, and have brought this Buſineſs to a tolerable perfection, within their Juriſdiction. Let them in proſecution of their judicious Indeavors, appoint Officers to ſuch a number as they can well manage. Let a Care be taken of Religion among the Poor, that we may expect a greater Bleſſing upon the publick Proceedings; and let an Act of Parliament be deſired, to confirm and grant ſuch things as ſhall be thought neceſſary for the carrying on of this pious Work. And let there be a Stock of all Commodities growing in our Country be provided, to imploy ſuch Poor as are within and without the Houſe. I doubt not but to ſee this buſineſs compleated to the Satisfaction of all the Inhabitants whoin a ſhort time will rejoice to ſee their Mony ſo well imployed.

I intreat them therefore to conſider, and ſeriouſly to weigh what I have here offer'd, how reaſonable it is that it is neceſſary that the lazy Poor ſhould be confin'd and oblig'd to work either for want of Food, or by ſome other Reſtraint and Compulſion;

pulsion. That such Houses being built and regulated in this manner, under a Governor and his Deputy, are the most convenient for this purpose. That this Method tends to the Glory of God, the Instruction as well as Imployment and Maintenance of the Poor, to the freeing of the Nation from all lazy and idle Beggars, to the Increase of Trade, to the augmenting in time of his Majesty's Revenues, to remove out of our sight a great Eyesore and Grievance. It tends to ease us from the great burden of those Rates that we pay to the Poor, more to incourage their laziness, than to relieve their wants. It tends to the Glory and great Advantage of our Trading Nation, and to the Honor of our Reformation. And this business may be so carried on, that no Person shall find himself either burden'd or aggriev'd. And if any Objection, which I can't at present foresee, shall be made against this Expedient to provide for our Poor, I offer to answer it, and to prove that it tends wholly to the publick Good more than to any private Interest. Neither can there be any imbezling or diverting of the publick Monies from the appointed Uses, because such as shall be intrusted, may be narrowly lookt after; and no longer are they to receive the same, than they free every Parish from their present Burden of the Poor. And I judg it more reasonable for us to trust such judicious Governors with a prudent management of the Poors Mony for their good, than to put it into the hands of such idle and lazy Prodigals (as we now do) who trust wholly upon the Sweat and Labors, and to the forced Charity and Benevolence of their poor Neighbors, and lavish it often at a strange rate. And these Houses, the fuller they are, and the more hands to work, the richer they and their Governors will grow: So that in a few years they will take away all our Poor without contribution, who will be able to subsist plentifully and better within these Houses than ordinary People without, and free us in time from the payment of all Poors Rates.

I pray God direct our wise Governors in this and all their other Consultations, for his Glory, his Majesty's Honor, the Nations Credit, the Increase of true Religion, and the publick Good. Amen.

M. D.

FINIS.